

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 /093 W

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P R 281624Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8451

CSAF

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

CINCUSAFE

CINCEUR

MAC

DIA

21AFCP MCGUIRE AFB NJ

435 MASW RHEIN-MAIN AB GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERN 4815

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SZ, GW, AU

SUBJECT: SWISS OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR USAF AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 230434

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY MADE PRESENTATION ALONG LINES REFTEL NOVEMBER 27 TO GULDIMANN, DIRECTOR, SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE. GULDIMANN'S RESPONSE WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE, BUT HE RAISED SEVERAL QUESTIONS WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER WITH SWISS FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AND WHICH USG MAY ALSO WISH CONSIDER FURTHER. END SUMMARY.

2. AIR ATTACHE AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MET WITH WERNER GULDIMANN, DIRECTOR, SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE, NOVEMBER 27, TO REVIEW USAF OVERFLIGHT SITUATION. WE ASSURED GULDIMANN THAT RESTRICTIONS IN 1970 ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED BY USAF AND INDICATED THAT WE FULLY

APPRECIATED THE FUEL AND TIME-SAVING VALUE OF SWISS OVER-FLIGHTS. WE ALSO PARTICULARLY STRESSED DIFFICULTIES WHICH WOULD ARISE IF SWISS AUTHORITIES DEEMED IT NECESSARY PERFORM ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED BY OTHERS AS INSPECTION OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WE THEN SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF VISITS BY SWISS OFFICIALS TO RHEIN-MAIN AIR BASE FOR PURPOSE OF OBSERVING NATURE OF CARGO AND PASSENGERS LOADED ON MAC AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED OVERFLY SWITZERLAND.

3. GULDIMANN STRESSED THAT SWISS HAVE NO DESIRE TO STOP USAF OVERFLIGHTS AND ALSO DO NOT WANT TO CREATE NUISANCE FOR US. ON OTHER HAND, SWISS SOVEREIGNTY AND SPECIAL NEUTRALITY STATUS REQUIRES THAT GOS HAVE ASSURANCE THAT 1970 ARRANGEMENT IS BEING ADHERED TO. ALSO OF CONCERN IS POSSIBLE REQUEST AT LATER DATE BY SOME OTHER COUNTRY FOR RIGHTS OVERFLY SWITZERLAND WITH MILITARY AIRCRAFT. GULDIMANN SAID THAT SWISS HAVE NO DESIRE TO HAVE USAF AIRCRAFT LAND AT SWISS AIRPORT TO UNDERGO INSPECTION AND THEREFORE WELCOMED IDEA OF POSSIBLE OBSERVATION VISITS TO RHEIN-MAIN.

4. GULDIMANN ALSO STRESSED THAT GOS HAS NO INTENTION OF ISSUING PUBLIC STATEMENT OR GIVING MATTER PUBLICITY IN ANY WAY IF IT CAN BE AVOIDED. ON OTHER HAND, PUBLIC INTEREST AND/OR PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS CONCERNING SWITZERLAND'S NEUTRAL POSITION SOMETIMES ARISE DURING A PERIOD OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION. IN SUCH A SITUATION, GOS MIGHT BE COMPELLED SAY SOMETHING PUBLICLY. EMBOFF SHOWED GULDIMANN TEXT OF POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY STATEMENT SET FORTH PARA 3 REFTEL AND GULDIMANN SAID SUCH LANGUAGE SEEMED ACCEPTABLE.

5. WITH REGARD TO OBSERVATION VISITS, GULDIMANN SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SWISS THAT VISITS BE UNDERTAKEN WITH BRIEF OR NO ADVANCE NOTICE. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT VISITS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN VERY INFREQUENTLY. AIR ATTACHE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE PROCEDURE ALONG LINES USDAO/BERN 080825Z, NOVEMBER 1973 (I.E., ISSUANCE OF INVITATION ORDERS FOR DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL TO MAKE VISIT
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WITHIN SPECIFIED SEVEN-DAY PERIOD). GULDIMANN SAID THAT SWISS WOULD PREFER NOT GIVE SUCH ADVANCE NOTICE ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD PROCEDURES TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING OR EMBARRASSMENT AT RHEIN-MAIN. HE SUGGESTED FOLLOWING POSSIBLE PROCEDURE: FEDERAL AIR OFFICE WOULD INFORM AIR ATTACHE/BERN ON MORNING OF DAY OBSERVATION VISIT PLANNED. AIR ATTACHE OR OTHER REP USDAO/BERN WOULD ACCOMPANY SWISS REPS IN FEDERAL AIR

OFFICE AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD FLY DIRECTLY TO RHEIN-MAIN.
USDAO REP WOULD ACCOMPANY OBSERVERS DURING VISIT TO
RHEIN-MAIN AND ACT AS LIAISON OFFICER WITH MAC.
GULDIMANN POINTED OUT THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD ALLOW
BRIEF ADVANCE NOTICE AND WOULD SIMPLIFY PROCEDURAL
ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID NAME OR NAMES OF SWISS REPS COULD
BE COMMUNICATED IN ADVANCE.

6. GULDIMANN SAID THAT GERMAN CLEARANCE FOR SWISS AIR
OFFICE AIRCRAFT COULD BE READILY OBTAINED THROUGH NORMAL
ATC PROCEDURES. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN, HOWEVER,
WHETHER GERMAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE INFORMED BY GOS OF
NATURE OF VISIT TO RHEIN-MAIN AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO
CONSIDER THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH FEDERAL POLITICAL
DEPARTMENT (FOREIGN MINISTRY). EMBOFFS NOTED THAT SWISS
OFFICIALS REGULARLY AND ROUTINELY VISIT US MILITARY
INSTALLATIONS IN GERMANY AT US INVITATION WITHOUT ANY
SPECIAL OR PARTICULAR COORDINATION WITH FRG.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BERN 4815

7. REGARDING TYPE OF ACTION BY SWISS DURING VISIT TO RHEIN-MAIN, GULDIMANN SAID SWISS WOULD WISH TO OBSERVE LOADING AND GENERAL PRE-DEPARTURE OPERATIONS. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT SWISS VISITORS WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST TOKEN OPENING OF "ONE OF TWO CRATES." EMBOFFS SIAD LATTER WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE PROBLEMS AND REITERATED STRONG US POSITION AGAINST INSPECTION OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT OBSERVATION OF LOADING OPERATION SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE INNOCENCE OF OVERFLYING AIRCRAFT. GULDIMANN SAID HE WAS NOT SURE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ASPECTS OF MATTER AND WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THIS ASPECT WITH POLITICAL DEPARTMENT. HE ALSO ASKED IF USG COULD CONSIDER ALLOWING SYMBOLIC, TOKEN OPENING OF CASE OR TWO. GULDIMANN STRESSED AGAIN THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED ON BASIS HIS OWN VISIT TO RHEIN-MAIN OF INNOCENCE OF OPERATIONS. HE SAID THAT SWISS REPS WOULD BE VERY CAREFULLY AND PRECISELY INSTRUCTED ON WHAT THEY COULD AND COULD NOT DO.
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8. AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION WE REFERRED TO VOLUNTARY SUSPENSION SINCE NOVEMBER 5 OF OVERFLIGHTS OF SWITZERLAND AND ASKED GULDIMANN IF DURING CURRENT EFFORT WORK OUT NEW ARRANGEMENT HE COULD ASSURE THAT OVERFLYING MAC AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE ASKED LAND AND UNDERGO INSPECTION IN SWITZERLAND. GULDIMANN SAID THAT 1970 LETTER WAS STILL VALID AND THAT AS FAR AS SWISS WERE CONCERNED OVERFLIGHTS COULD CERTAINLY RESUME UNDER 1970 TERMS AND CONDITIONS. HE SAID THAT WHILE NO ASSURANCES COULD BE GIVEN, RISK THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD BE ASKED LAND FOR INSPECTION WAS "VERY SMALL."

9. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME COMMENT OR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR OBSERVATION VISITS, INCLUDING USDAO ACCOMPANYING SWISS AIRCRAFT, (B) ON ASSUMPTION EVEN TOKEN OPENING OF CRATES UNACCEPTABLE TO USG, WHETHER ANY OTHER KIND OF TOKEN MEASURES MIGHT BE DEvised, (C) ANY FURTHER US VIEWS RE NECESSITY FOR INFORMING FRG.
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